

OUR RELIGIOUS COLUMN.

CHRISTIAN SONG.

A LECTURE-ROOM TALK BY REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER.

Many think song is a luxury which they have a right to deny themselves if they please. Few have thought it a duty that should be instructed in Christian song themselves, and should teach it to their families; and yet the command to sing is as explicit as the command to pray; and we do not think of neglecting to teach our household to pray. You will bear witness, the greatest trouble of Christian experience is what we may call the liquefaction of thought into emotion. The Greek method of culture was philosophical, and we have followed largely in the same direction. This is an important element in the education of the people, but we find it difficult to express the wine of emotion from the cluster of thought. Particularly those of us who have been trained in New England, under catch-in and preaching, in a dogmatic and philosophic form, find it difficult to take the doctrines and reduce them to practical realization.

"Thus we often hear persons say: 'I know I am sinful, but I don't feel it; I believe Christ died for me, but I have no realization of it; I believe he atoned for my sins, but I can't bring it home.'" We have propositions, but we can't communicate them to bread, or liquefy them to wine. The Hebrew came to truth on the side of emotion and moral intuition, and afterwards came to the doctrines. The true method would seem to lie between these, and singing is that natural way in which thought is reduced to feeling.

The wings God has given us to fly up to Him are the wings of song. The lyrical element is the best expression of feeling. All forms of experience have been touched in the poetry of chant and song. Why should we neglect these gatherings of expression? Why should you try to get to God, when you can sing your way to Him with half the effort? There is a railroad up Mount Washington. A man who sings through life like the man who ascends the mountain in the car; the man who does not sing is like the traveler who pants on foot up the steep ascent. Many say, first reason, emotion last. But in the hymn the same truth may touch all hearts—Lord Bacon, and as well the slave on the plantation. Singing is the process by which intellectual propositions can be converted into emotion and heart expression.

Those who sing a good deal will be warmed-hearted Christians. These are the Methodists and the Presbyterians—the one would sing the people all to heaven, and the other would preach them all there. Which will bring them up quicker? They say the one side educates, while the other excites the people. Why don't you combine the two?

On Sunday morning, when I have been jaded, in despair—sad, at any rate, before the organ voluntary was completed, I have been changed, as if taken out of January and plumped down into May—winter all gone, and spring come in its place.

Many a time the Friday-night meeting has helped me through to Sunday. I set my foot down from the first, there should be singing in this congregation. Every year there was a new committee. It was eight or ten years before the church would let me have my own way, and now you've got your way, too, because you all like it, and that is one reason why the church is so social, and why you all love each other so much. I always like a church that don't sing like a slide rule with no bells, a garden with no flowers. A church with four singers! Four whole singers! A thousand pair of ears—only four mouths. When singing is made to open up men's hearts, a thousand people get four folk to do it for them. Four singers have to sing for show; it is possible for them to sing devotionally; all things are possible in the Lord. I don't believe a singing family can quarrel much, and if people are ugly (and at times, I suppose all people are ugly—I am), I don't think they can have a hymn in the mouth and an ugly feeling in the heart. If two persons have a quarrel, and sit down near each other and sing, I don't believe they can feel a disposition to quarrel and sing.

I've known a man of humble talent, in a country village, do as much good as the minister. Having a tenor voice and good memory, he would be sent for to the sick and dying, to sing the Lord's message to them. A plain man, who has a good voice, and sings from house to house, is a preacher and a good one. All denominations come together in hymns. Arminian and Calvinist here agree in regard to God's sovereignty, man's sinfulness, helpfulness of men, and the power of the Holy Ghost.

SUMMARY OF CHURCH NEWS.

BISHOP CAL. —The Episcopal Register is the name of a new Low Church paper, started in this city the current month.

—The new edifice of the Brooklyn Church, St. Ann's-on-the-Heights, Rev. Dr. Schenck, rector, is a gorgeous structure, which has cost \$40,000.

—Jefferson Davis has been elected one of the vestrymen of the St. Lazarus Episcopal Church, of Memphis, Tenn. Two of the sons of the rector were Confederate officers and both killed during the war.

—The Sustentation Fund, raising by subscription for the disestablished Irish Episcopal Church, has reached \$500,000, not a very large sum, of which two contributors have given \$60,000 each.

—The Congregationalist says:—There is a good story told of Bishop Littlejohn, of Long Island, who, when elected to his office, was thought to be of High Church proclivities. Not long since he paid an official visit to a Brooklyn Church (St. —), which is said to be the lithest kind of a High Church, and found a maze of ritualistic ceremonies—processions, recessions, and all other kinds of "seasonals"—arranged for the occasion. Instead of falling in with the high and solemn antics, the Bishop paid no attention to them, quite disregarding the order of pomp, and the ceremony short, marched boldly to the pulpit, and, before the service was ended, administered a sharp rebuke upon the whole performance. As a result, the rector was affronted, and has resigned his charge.

METHODIST.

—Rev. Dr. Abel Stevens is named as the probable successor of Rev. Dr. McClintock, as President of Drew Theological Seminary.

—The French Catholic Society of Worcester, Mass., have purchased the Park Street Methodist Church in that city for about \$25,000.

—The Free Methodist Church, which was organized in 1860, has now 109 preachers, and about 6000 members. It has four annual conferences.

—Rev. Isaac Collins, a venerable Methodist clergyman of Baltimore, died May 28, aged 81 years. He had been a minister of the gospel upwards of sixty years. He served under General Harrison, as chaplain and soldier, in 1812, and was one of the defenders of Baltimore in 1814.

—The Southern Methodists propose to adopt the Southern Quarterly as their organ, under the editorship of A. T. Bledsoe, LL.D. Party politics will be eliminated from the Review, and is a theological department substituted.

—The Methodist says that, although there is an attempt to crush Dr. Lushan, and the book

Committee has voted to put all the power into the hands of the senior agent of the Book Concern, his action has infused greater regularity and system into the concern. Formerly nothing was derived from the gold sweepings, which now yield from \$1000 to \$1200 a year; and the cash receipts from paper-shavings have been doubled, reaching \$3000 per year.

—The Boston Theological Seminary has been in that city three years. The first year were 32 students, the second 44, the third 59, making it the largest in New England except Andover. The assets of the institution have increased from \$15,000 to \$200,000, of which \$100,000 is given ward, after three days' hot discussion, under new leaders, as the most advanced supporters of unsectarian schools; their resolutions, just passed, being much more radical than those of the Congregational Union. They insist on the separation of theological schools from the public rate. The English Independent is jubilant, and says:—"Messieurs the clergy! This is what your bigotry, your insolent assumptions, your rampant Sacramentalism, your dogmatic and dogmatical allies the Wesleyans, to Mr. Arnold is a prophet. In twenty years, he said, the Wesleyans would be the political dissenters. It has come to pass in twenty days. Place them, for the Wesleyans, let them pass on to the point of honor—in the first rank of the education table!"

CONGREGATIONAL.

—The Association of Welsh Congregationalists in this city numbers sixteen ministers and thirty-two churches.

—The statistics of the Kansas General Association show a net gain of 400 members the past year. Churches, 59; members, 2000.

—One hundred and forty of the two hundred and forty-nine Congregational churches in Maine receive aid from the Maine Missionary Society.

—The Congregational Church in Stoughton, Mass., has endorsed the action of the society in offering the Universalists the temporary use of their building. The officers, who were felt aggrieved, have withdrawn their resignations.

—During the past year the Congregational Publishing Society has published 26 bound volumes, containing 790 pages. The business of the Society for 1869-70, donations to charitable purposes, \$9,493.93, all of which have been appropriated in books and papers, in about 500 different places.

—The Congregational General Association of New York met last week in Andover. They report eleven new churches organized and eleven which have become self-supporting. They request that a secretary of the Home Mission Society and one of the Congregational Union have their circuits in churches, assigning preachers for their labors to churches which are in the favor, quite a debate arose as to assigning one to the Universalist church, but the request was granted.

BAPTIST.

—In 1852 the Baptists of Newark, having two churches and 500 members, organized the city mission. Now they have eight churches and over 2000 members, having increased five-fold, while the city has only doubled in population.

—The American Missionary Association denies utterly that churches have been put up by Baptist churches into their treasury, and then perverted to Congregational propaganda, as charged in the anonymous paragraph headed "Baptists beware" that has been published conspicuously and anonymously in every Baptist paper but one in the North.

—The Freewill Baptists, working with the American Missionary Association, concentrate their efforts in the region of Harper's Ferry, Va., and Memphis, Tenn. They have in connection with their churches and churches and thirty-three preachers, a larger number than those who work with them in the association have in all the South.

—The Baptists have now in this country 41 colleges and theological seminaries, besides academies and female seminaries. These 41 institutions have 250 professors and 3300 students, of whom 800 are studying for the ministry. They also control 46 periodicals, to supply their 878 ministers, 15,143 churches, and 1,231,349 members. The United States Board of Christian Education has 250 churches of the general organizations were \$781,954.

—The English Baptist Union has voted to favor a new translation of the Bible by scholars from all denominations. Notice has been given that a motion will be introduced in the British Parliament for the appointment of a royal commission to make this translation. It has been thought by many better that it should be made by such a commission than by a committee of convention, which is sectarian body. The convention of Canterbury has appointed committees to consider the subject of the revision of the Bible, and has resolved that in such an event members of all denominations should be invited to join it.

PRESBYTERIAN.

—On the first Sabbath in May the Presbyterian church which Professor Knapp, late Baptist, has organized in Madrid, celebrated their first communion, at which 45 Spaniards and 10 foreigners communicated.

—At the late meeting of the Michigan Congregational General Association, the action of Olivet College in asking Presbyterian aid and offering to Presbyterians a share in its government was generally condemned as opening the way for such sectarian difficulties as were for so long the cause of Knox College.

—The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church has been meeting in Pittsburgh. The Moderator was Rev. T. S. Kendall, of Oregon. The Home Mission Board reports 140 stations that have received aid, 139 of which have a church membership of 7557 and have received \$770 on profession. The receipts were \$28,177. The Foreign Board received \$53,865, an increase of \$2600. A report was received allowing divorce with remarriage in cases of will desertion.

—The United Presbyterian Synod of Scotland has taken up the question of union with Free Presbyterians, and voted by an overwhelming majority to send down to the presbyteries the question of union on the basis of the standards. The great objection is in the other Church, Mr. Spurgeon was received as a visitor, and made two speeches. The augmentation fund aids feeble churches, so as to make the smallest salary \$787 gold, although six pastors refused to receive this aid. The average salary is \$1031. There are six hundred congregations and 178,423 members.

—The Reformed Presbyterian Synod, Old School, meeting in New York last week, adopted a long confession of individual and national sin, and also a long covenant, pledging the members to Christian life, and to labor to secure the headship of Christ in the State, and also to discourage schism and sectarianism. A petition from the theological seminary at Albany that Tyrrell's Latin Treatise on Theology may be exchanged for an English text-book was voted down. The theological course is to be seven months, instead of five, during four years.

MORMON.

—P. T. Barnum writes from Salt Lake City to the Christian Leader, saying that Amasa M. Lyman will be elected president of the Reformed Church in that city. He represents to be a very able man, but one who has been kept by Brigham Young in obscurity in Southern Utah, because he found him too liberal. Mr. Barnum regards the movement as a very strong and promising one.

CATHOLIC.

—The friends of the dogma of infallibility hope to have it proclaimed on the 25th of June, after which the Vatican Council will take a recess until the 15th of October.

—Pope Pius IX. will commence the 25th year of his pontificate on June 17. Tradition gives

25 years, 2 months, and 7 days to the pontificate of St. Peter, and the Roman proverb says that no Pope shall see the years of Peter. Some say that Pius intends to resign before that limit is reached, which will be on the 24th of August, 1871.

REFORMED. —The National Synod of the (Dutch) Reformed Church have been in session in Newark. The Foreign Mission receipts the past year were very small, leaving a debt of \$25,000; and the Home Board has a debt of \$12,651. These debts, which have existed for some years, are a strong argument for union with the Presbyterians, who have encouraged union by endorsing at their late assembly the Heidelberg Catechism.

LUTHERAN. —The First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Portland, Oregon, was dedicated on May 28. Rev. G. F. Stelling travelled 3000 miles to preach the sermon.

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REAL ESTATE AT AUCTION.

SALE ON THE PREMISES—THOMAS & SONS, Auctioneers.—Handsome Modern Residence and Furniture, No. 223 Green street, lot 25 feet front, 104 feet deep.

On Monday morning, June 13, 1870, at 10 o'clock, will be sold at public sale, on the premises, all that handsome modern three-story message, 25 feet of ground, situated on the north side of Green street, below Twenty-fourth street, No. 223, the lot containing in front of Green street 15 feet, and extending in depth 104 feet to a four-foot wide alley leading into Twenty-fourth street. The house contains thirteen rooms, and is in excellent order throughout, and is fitted with the most modern conveniences; low-down range, marble vestibule, plate and china closets, and a large bath. The front veranda, dining-room and kitchen paneled, large bay windows in library, veranda in second story, corner story, marble floors, every room with a large terrace lawn, which is handsomely laid out and planted with choice shrubbery, evergreens, shrubs, and flowers, and a large lawn, and a large terrace lawn, which is handsomely laid out and planted with choice shrubbery, evergreens, shrubs, and flowers, and a large lawn, and a large terrace lawn, which is handsomely laid out and planted with choice shrubbery, evergreens, shrubs, and flowers.

The above residence is finished in the best manner throughout, and is situated in one of the most desirable portions of Green street, being within two squares of the main entrance to the Park. The street has recently been laid with the Nicolson pavement.

Immediate possession. The present owner and occupant declining housekeeping on account of a death in the family. Terms—\$2000 may remain on mortgage, with interest, at 6 per cent. per annum, to be paid in two equal payments, one on the 1st of July, and the other on the 1st of October, 1870. Balance to be paid in cash. A large amount of furniture, including a grand piano, and other articles, will be sold at public sale, on the premises, on Tuesday, June 14, 1870, at 10 o'clock, noon, will be sold at public sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, all that three-story brick message and lot of ground, situated on the north side of the Germantown road, 16 feet north of Monroe street, No. 2005; containing in front on the Germantown road 16 feet, and extending in depth on the northwestern line 45 feet 1 1/2 inches, and on the southeastern line 45 feet 3 1/2 inches; thence eastward on the north line 45 feet 1 1/2 inches, and on the south line 45 feet 3 1/2 inches to Kressler street, on which it has a front of 16 feet. It is occupied by a store and dwelling in a handsome style. Clear of all incumbrances. Terms—One-third, a widow's dowry, to remain.

M. THOMAS & SONS, Auctioneers, Nos. 139 and 141 S. FOURTH STREET.

REAL ESTATE—THOMAS & SONS' SALE.

Business Stand, Three-story brick Tavern and Dwelling, No. 235 S. Twelfth street, below Locust street, at the Philadelphia Exchange, all that three-story brick tavern and dwelling, with two-story back building and lot of ground, situated on the north side of Locust street, No. 235; containing in front on Twelfth street 18 feet, and extending in depth 60 feet, together with the privilege of a 2 feet wide alley, containing a water-closet, bath, gas, hot and cold water, water-closet, range, etc. Terms—\$2000 may remain on mortgage for 5 years from November 1, 1869, at 5 per cent.

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